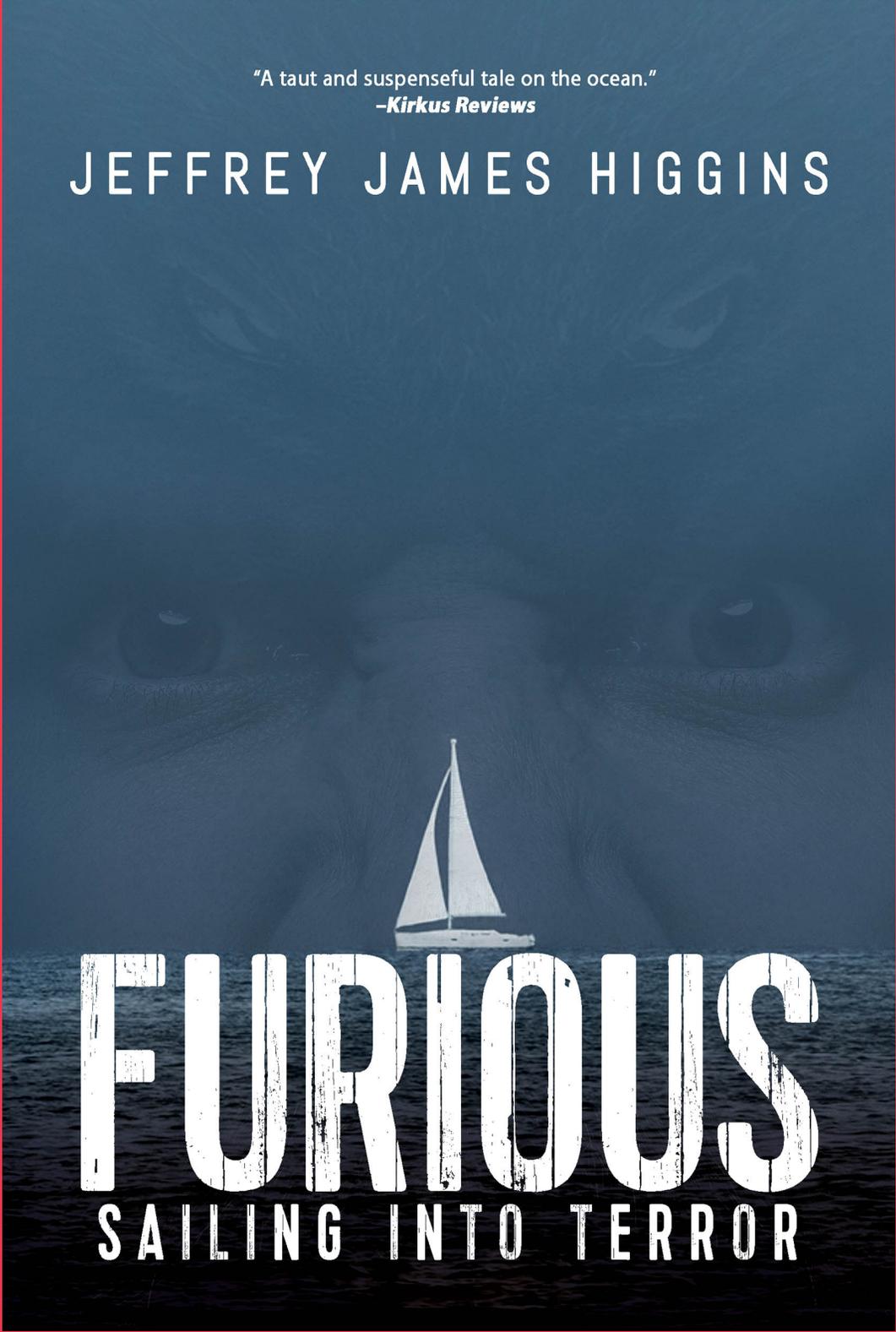


# MEDIA KIT

"A taut and suspenseful tale on the ocean."

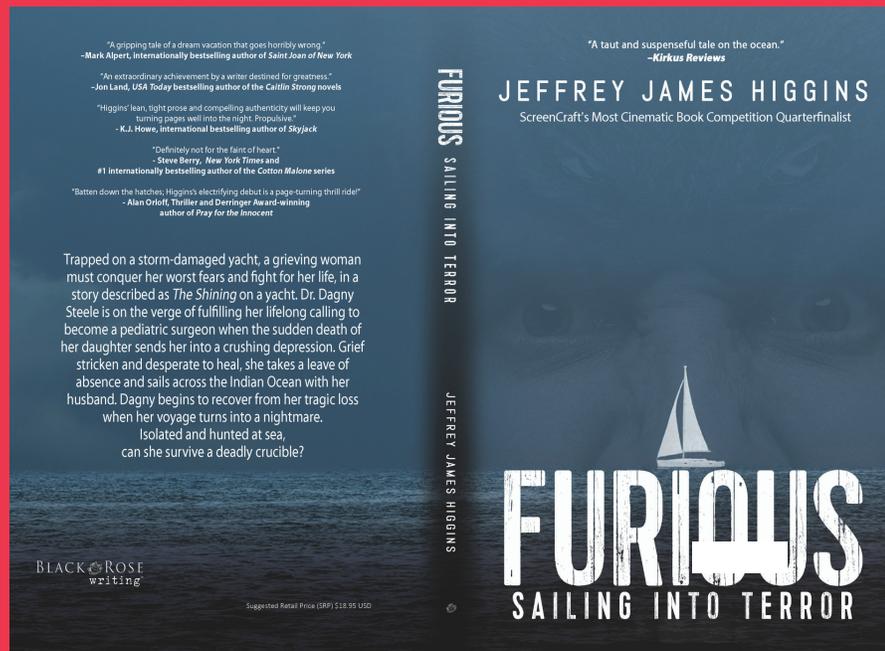
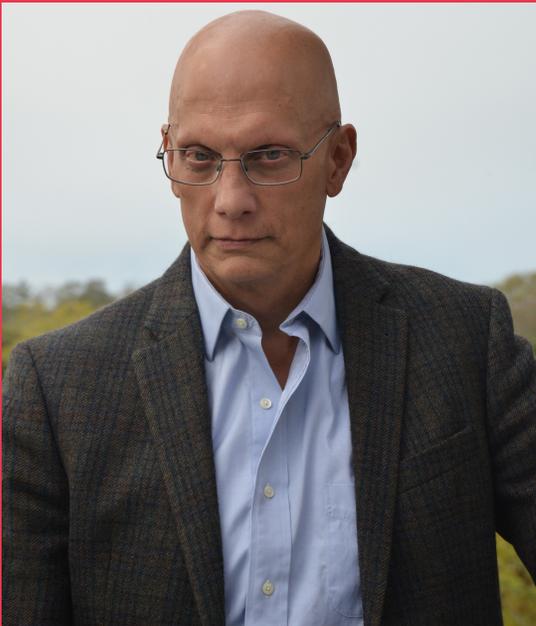
*-Kirkus Reviews*

JEFFREY JAMES HIGGINS



**FURIOUS**

SAILING INTO TERROR



# Media Kit Contents

**PUBLISHER:** Black Rose Writing.

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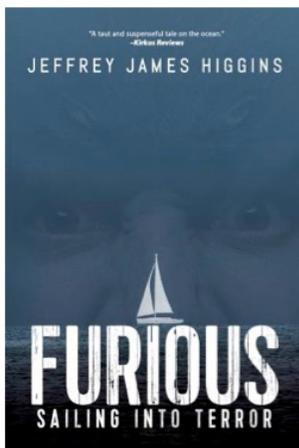
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 20, 2021 | Washington, DC

Visit <http://jeffreyjameshiggins.com/> for contact details, photos, and an author bio.

## **A Woman's Struggle to Survive**

*This Debut Thriller Will Keep You up All Night*



Jeffrey James Higgins' debut thriller, *Furious: Sailing into Terror*, will launch on May 20, 2021. Trapped on a storm-damaged yacht, a grieving woman must conquer her worst fears and fight for her life, in a story described as *The Shining* on a yacht.

Dr. Dagny Steele is on the verge of fulfilling her lifelong calling to become a pediatric surgeon when the sudden death of her daughter sends her into a crushing depression. Grief stricken and desperate to heal, she takes a leave of absence and sails across the Indian Ocean with her husband. Dagny begins to recover from her tragic loss when her voyage turns into a nightmare. Isolated and hunted at sea, can she survive a deadly crucible?

“A taut and suspenseful tale on the ocean.” –*Kirkus Reviews*



Jeffrey James Higgins is a former reporter, former elected official, and retired supervisory special agent, who writes thriller novels, short stories, creative nonfiction, and essays. He has wrestled an IED away from a suicide bomber, fought the Taliban in combat, and chased terrorists across five continents. He achieved the first narco-terrorism arrest, convicted the world's most prolific heroin trafficker, and received both the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Heroism and the DEA Award of Valor. Learn more at <http://JeffreyJamesHiggins.com>.

Copies of *Furious: Sailing into Terror* are available at all major booksellers, including Black Rose Writing, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble.

**Review copies available upon request**

Contact: Justin Weeks, Sales Team, Black Rose Writing, [sales@blackrosewriting.com](mailto:sales@blackrosewriting.com)

# Author Bios

## **Short Bio**

Jeffrey James Higgins is a former reporter and retired supervisory special agent who writes thriller novels, short stories, creative nonfiction, and essays.

## **Medium Bio**

Jeffrey James Higgins is a former reporter and retired supervisory special agent who writes thriller novels, short stories, creative nonfiction, and essays. He has wrestled a suicide bomber, fought the Taliban in combat, and chased terrorists across five continents.

*Furious* is his debut thriller. Discover his writing at <http://JeffreyJamesHiggins.com>.

## **Long Bio**

Jeffrey James Higgins is a former reporter and retired supervisory special agent who writes thriller novels, short stories, creative nonfiction, and essays. He made the first narco-terrorism arrest, convicted the world's most prolific heroin trafficker, and convicted an Iranian spy. He has wrestled a suicide bomber, fought the Taliban in combat, and chased terrorists across five continents. Jeffrey has appeared on CNN Newsroom, Investigation Discovery, CNN Declassified, New York Times, and Fox News. He was a finalist Adelaide's 2018 Best Essay Contest and a quarterfinalist in ScreenCraft's 2019 Most Cinematic Book Competition and 2021 Cinematic Short Story Writing Competition.

<http://JeffreyJamesHiggins.com>.

# Author Portrait



# **B/W Author Portrait**



# Contacts

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# Synopsis

Trapped on a storm-damaged yacht, a grieving woman must conquer her worst fears and fight for her life, in a story described as *The Shining* on a yacht. Dr. Dagny Steele is on the verge of fulfilling her lifelong calling to become a pediatric surgeon when the sudden death of her daughter sends her into a crushing depression. Grief stricken and desperate to heal, she takes a leave of absence and sails across the Indian Ocean with her husband. Dagny begins to recover from her tragic loss when her voyage turns into a nightmare. Isolated and hunted at sea, can she survive a deadly crucible?

# Best Thrillers Review

**The Bottom Line:** An expertly paced psychological thriller on the high seas.

As *Furious* begins, surgeons Dr. Dagny Steele and her husband, Brad, are grieving the loss of their daughter. Dagny seems to resent how quickly Brad has returned to normalcy, while Brad wants her to move on with her life. He also has a surprise: he's leased a 62-foot yacht that the two of them will sail from Indonesia to the Maldives. The trip will take them a month, and, he insists, it'll be therapeutic.

Dagny's friend, Jessica, is immediately wary. Dagny has been terrified of the water since she was a little girl. Neither have any idea that the voyage will be a nightmare beyond all belief.

Reminiscent of the Charles Williams novel *Dead Calm* in setup and setting, author Jeffrey James Higgins delivers a modern tale of mayhem and madness on the ocean. Written in the first-person, the immediacy of Dagny's emotional suffering and paranoia is fully absorbing. The chapters leading up to the trip are filled with uncommon dread. Despite Brad's efforts to calm her nerves, such as taking her to visit a Hindu temple, all Dagny can see are bad omens.

Once the pair are alone on the water, it's increasingly clear that their everyday fears, such as pirates and storms, will be the least of their worries. Higgins' pacing is excellent, and his narrative shows admirable restraint, patiently ratcheting up the suspense to a crescendo of intense psychological terror and mortal danger.

# Kirkus Review

In this debut thriller, a woman has nowhere to run when she's stuck on a yacht at sea with her rabid husband. Following the death of her infant daughter, Dagny Steele grapples with depression for six months. Her husband, Brad Coolidge, believing they both need to get away, plans a monthlong yacht excursion. They leave their Massachusetts home for Bali, where they set sail. Brad, with more nautical experience, is the captain, and for a while, it's smooth sailing. But then the couple start having trouble. Brad is sometimes frighteningly aggressive with Dagny, who also has reason to suspect he's keeping secrets, like an affair. These problems only exacerbate adversities on the water, from monsoons and trailing sharks to the possibility of pirates. Worst of all, Brad has been sick from the start, and his condition is deteriorating.

Dagny is certain it stems from a bat bite he received in Bali, but Brad stubbornly refuses treatment and doesn't want to bring the yacht to port. When his ailment becomes a likely case of furious rabies, Brad is incoherent, violent, and potentially lethal. Dagny will have to fight him to make it safely ashore. Higgins' story is fraught with tension. Even before Brad's sickness worsens, there are nerve-wracking moments, like a ship that may be following the yacht. All of readers' sympathies will go to Dagny, who has a fear of water due to a family tragedy. In contrast, Brad is condescending as well as spiteful when Dagny denies him sex. He's also utterly terrifying when showing rabies symptoms. The author writes concise, white-knuckle scenes as Dagny wisely hides from her husband: "Brad stood in the berth doorway, his fists balled, and his hair matted with sweat. He stared into the empty cabin and cocked his head, as if he sensed me nearby." The story culminates in an unforgettable final act. A taut and suspenseful tale on the ocean.

# Blurbs

" Definitely not for the faint of heart."

- Steve Berry, *NYTs and #1 internationally bestselling author of the Cotton Malone series.*

"An extraordinary achievement by a writer destined for greatness."

- Jon Land, *USA Today bestselling author of the Caitlin Strong novels*

"Jeffrey James Higgins has crafted a terrifying thriller that'll give readers another reason to steer well clear of tropical cruises."

- Mark Alpert, *internationally bestselling author of Saint Joan of New York*

"Batten down the hatches; Higgins's electrifying debut is a page-turning thrill ride!"

- Alan Orloff, *Thriller-and Derringer Award-winning author of Pray for the Innocent*

"Higgins' lean, tight prose and compelling authenticity will keep you turning pages well into the night. Propulsive."

- K.J. Howe, *international bestselling author of SKYJACK*

Furious will keep you glued to the edge of your helm seat."

- Rick Pullen, *author of the bestselling thriller Naked Ambition*

". . . Higgins delights with this edge-of-your-seat debut novel."

- Gordon MacKinney, *author of Follow me Down and Winner of Literary Titan Gold Award*

"This is an outstanding debut, and I can't wait to see what Jeffrey James Higgins does next."

- Adam Meyer, *author of The Last Domino*

# More Blurbs

"Higgins makes us feel like we are right there—trapped and fighting for our lives!"

- *Steve Cone, Chief Marketing Officer and Three-Time Author*

"This timeless yet timely tale is crafted masterfully. It pulled me in immediately. I swear I did not put the book down until I finished it."

- *John Hunt, MD, Co-Author of Speculator, Drug Lord, and Assassin*

"Higgins delivers the most terror on the high seas in decades."

- *Timothy Gene Sojka, author Payback Jack*

". . . a take-no prisoners thriller . . . "

- *Katherine Nichols, author of The Sometime Sister*

"a chilling and nail-biting experience from beginning to end . . . I couldn't put it down."

- *Dan McDowell, author of Level Zero*

". . . a terrifying maritime mashup of The Shining-Meets-Moby Dick . . . Furious is a page-turning pleasure."

- *Gojan Nikolich, author of The Gopher King*

". . . an unthinkable terror on the high seas . . . Compelling from start to finish."

- *Michael Hopkins, author of The Things in Heaven and Earth*

"What a brilliant debut . . . This page-turner is a must-read for thriller fans, and I'm looking forward to the author's next release!"

- *Anna Mocikat, author of Tales of the Shadow City series.*

# Comparable Titles

1. *No Exit*, by Taylor Adams. William Morrow, 2019. ISBN-10: 0062875655 / ISBN-13: 978-0062875655.

2. *Intensity*, by Dean Koontz. Alfred A. Knopf, 1996. ISBN-10: 067942525X / ISBN-13: 978-0679425250.

3. *The Woman in Cabin 10*, by Ruth Ware. Gallery/Scout Press, 2016. ISBN-10: 1501132938 / ISBN-13: 978-1501132933.

4. *On the Island*, by Tracey Garvis Graves. Wheeler Publishing, 2012. ISBN-10: 1410453154 / ISBN-13: 978-1410453150.

5. *The Shining*, by Stephen King. Doubleday, 1977. ASIN: B005KDY68E.

6. *Dead Calm*, by Charles Williams. The Overlook Press. 2014. ISBN-10: 1468309722 / ISBN-13: 978-1468309720.

# Interview Topics

1. Jeffrey's blue-water sailing mishaps
2. Transitioning from reporter to law enforcement officer
3. Shootings and car chases in Tampa, Florida
4. Investigating transnational crime in New York City
5. Responding to the World Trade Center on 9/11
6. Wrestling a suicide bomber in Kabul
7. Making the first narco-terrorism arrest
8. Convicting the World's most prolific heroin trafficker
9. Arresting an Iranian spy trying to buy surface-to-air missiles
10. A debut author's hurdles on the road to publication